

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, TU

SUBJECT: SITUATION OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN ISTANBUL

REF: A) ISTANBUL 0745 B) ATHENS 1259 C) ISTANBUL 0997

1. IN APRIL 20 MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, ATTENDED ALSO BY ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSTSEC VEST, ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA INDICATED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT IMPLEMENTED THE MEASURES WHICH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 9 WOULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND GREEK COMMUNITY PROBLEMS (REF A). IAKOVOS ALSO EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OVER THE VALIDITY OF PATRIARCHATE SPOKESMAN'S
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RECENT STATEMENTS WHICH REFERRED POSITIVELY TO THE MEETING WITH ECEVIT TO REGULARIZE GREEK COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND IMPLIED THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WERE PRODUCTS OF THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY WERE MADE.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY

UPDATE ON PRESENT STATUS OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND GREEK COMMUNITY PROBLEMS. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC STEPS, IF ANY, GOT HAS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S MARCH 9 COMMITMENT. DEPARTMENT

WOULD ALSO WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION CONSULATE GENERAL AND/OR DEPARTMENT COULD TAKE WITH REGARD TO PATRIARCHATE AND GREEK COMMUNITY IN ISTANBUL.

3. PAST REPORTING, INCLUDING REFTELS, HAS BEEN MOST USEFUL AND HAS BEEN USED IN RESPONDING TO NUMEROUS CONGRESSIONAL AND PRIVATE INQUIRIES DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ON SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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